

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ERDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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O R 071220Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5818

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 6840

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, IN

SUBJ: RENEWED GOI REQUEST FOR REPORT OF ERDA TEAM VISIT

REF: A. NEW DELHI 6624, B. STATE 060498

1. THE OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH FROM J.C. SHAH'S LETTER OF APRIL 28 TO THE SCIENCE COUNSELOR FOLLOWS: QUOTE: WE ARE KEENLY AWAITING THE REPORT OF THE US SECURITY TEAM ON THEIR VISIT TO TARAPUR AND HYDERABAD, PARTICULARLY AS THE SUMMARY OF THEIR VIEWS WHICH WAS COMMUNICATED TO US DID NOT APPEAR TO BE IN CONSONANCE WITH OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR IMPRESSIONS GATHERED AT THE MEETING AT TROMBAY BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE. END QUOTE.

2. THE EMBASSY CONCURS WITH CONSUL GENERAL COURTNEY'S RECOMMENDATION PARA 4 REF A THAT A SANITIZED VERSION OF THE MARCH 9 ERDA EXECUTIVE SUMMARY BE PROVIDED TO THE IAEC. WE HAVE REVIEWED THAT DOCUMENT AND FIND FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW VERY LITTLE IN IT OTHER THAN PORTIONS OF THE SECOND PARAGRAPH THAT WE WOULD NOT WANT TO SHARE WITH THE INDIANS. WITH AN APPROPRIATELY REVISED INTRODUCTION WE THINK IT WOULD FIT THE BILL ADMIRABLY. WE HOPE IT CAN BE DELIVERED AS EXPEDITIOUSLY
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AS POSSIBLE, BUT CERTAINLY BEFORE MAY 11 WHEN THE

IAEC ESTIMATES WILL BE DEBATED.

3. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON THE TIMING OF A POSSIBLE RETURN VISIT BY INDIAN SECURITY OFFICERS TO US ATOMIC POWER INSTALLATIONS.

4. IN THE PRESENT SITUATION WE BELIEVE IT NECESSARY TO DO ALL THAT WE CAN REASONABLY DO, AND PERHAPS A LITTLE MORE, TO ALLAY INDIAN SENSITIVITIES. THERE IS HIGH DEGREE OF INTEREST WITHIN THE GOI IN THE VISIT OF THE AMERICAN SECURITY TEAM. THE PRIME MINISTER HERSELF ANSWERED QUESTIONS REGARDING IT IN THE RAJYA SABHA ON APRIL 1 (NEW DELHI 4825). IAEC ESTIMATES WILL BE QUESTIONED IN THE BUDGET DEBATE ON MAY 11, AND SETHNA'S DESIRE TO DEMONSTRATE THE VALUE OF HIS COOPERATION WITH THE US IS ENTIRELY UNDERSTANDABLE. SAXBE

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